

Message Text

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QUOTE S E C R E T USNATO 0320

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, NATO
SUBJECT: NAC MEETING JANUARY 22: AGENDA ITEM II - ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
US PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES

REF.: A. STATE 12084
B. USNATO 0304
C. STATE 14476

1. AT COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 22, I MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
PROPOSING ONGOING AND HIGH LEVEL STUDY WITHIN NATO OF ECONOMIC
ASPECTS OF ATLANTIC SECURITY. BEGIN TEXT.

AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER, OUT
FOREIGN MINISTERS SHARED A COMMON, STRONGLY-FELT CONCERN OVER THE
IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THE COHESION
AND SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE
ALLIANCE SHOULD NOW TAKE ACTION ON THE BASIS OF THAT CONCERN. TO
THIS END, WE PROPOSE THAT THE ALLIES BE PREPARED TO STUDY, ON AN
ONGOING BASIS AND AT A HIGH LEVEL, ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ALLIANCE

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PAGE 02 STATE 020193

SECURITY. AS A START, WE PROPOSE THAT WE BEGIN WITH A STUDY OF

THE RELATIVE IMPACT ON NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT OF WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS OF INFLATION, RECESSION, AND HIGH OIL PRICES. AS A CONTRIBUTION TO BEGIN THE DISCUSSION PROCESS, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO PRESENT IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE A DRAFT PAPER WITH OUR INITIAL VIEWS WHICH WOULD BE INTENDED TO SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION. AFTER CONSIDERATION IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THE STUDY WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL, PERHAPS IN A MEETING REINFORCED WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM OUR CAPITALS WITH POLICY MAKING RESPONSIBILITIES ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD ELICIT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL ALLIES IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, IN KEEPING WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED AT THE MINISTERIAL.

IN ADDITION, WE SHOULD BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGE TO NATO, BEARING IN MIND THAT BY CONSULTING AS ALLIES WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DUPLICATE IN NATO ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION AND DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN OTHER FORA. WE BELIEVE THAT A CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS ALLIES ON SECURITY-RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL NOT ONLY PROMOTE A BETTER COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF CRUCIAL ISSUES, BUT WILL REINFORCE AND EXTEND THE PRACTICE OF CLOSE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE ALLIANCE. END TEXT.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF STATEMENT, I OFFERED TO DISTRIBUTE TEXT OF MY REMARKS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLIES. ACTING SYG PANSA SAID THAT SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT SO THAT COUNCIL CAN DISCUSS PROPOSAL AT NEXT MEETING.

3. WE MAY RECEIVE PRELIMINARY REACTION OF ALLIES TO OUR PROPOSAL AT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 23 AFTER DELEGATIONS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DIGEST TEXT OF MY STATEMENT. BRUCE END QUOTE
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